

I. Amendment

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

5. (Previously amended) A method for making a combination of a recognizable thematic replica package and an article contained in the package for combined marketing, the method including the steps of:

constructing a thematic replica package as a replica of a recognizable icon, the package having a shape that is different than any shape of article to be contained therein,

the package having totally separable pieces joinable to form a hollow interior of the package and being separable to open the package for the removal of the article, the package and the article being made of plastic;

folding the plastic article;

locating the folded plastic article within the hollow interior of the package to form the combination of the article and the recognizable replica icon package; and

marketing the combination.

Claims 6-7 (canceled)

8. (Previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a golf ball as the icon.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as a replica [as] of a baseball as the icon.

10. (Previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a life preserver as the icon.

11. (Previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a football as the icon.

12. (Previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a tennis ball as the icon.

13. (Previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a ball used in a particular sport.

14. (Previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a wheel as the icon.

15. (Previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a charge or bank card as the icon.

16. (canceled)

17. (Previously amended) The method of claim 5, further including the step of imprinting a logo on the package.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, further including the step of: locating the package adjacent to a second package containing a second article, [the packages] within another package.

19. (Previously amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the other package is configured as a sleeve for golf balls.

20. (Previously amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the articles are not identical articles.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes the step of: constructing the article as a protective sleeve which [the article to] includes a flap.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of constructing includes the step of: constructing the article [to have] as a protective sleeve which has a second flap, the flaps at respective ends joined to form an opening therebetween.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes securing to an exterior part of the package a [means] securement structure for attaching the package to another article.

24. (Currently amended) A method for making a combination of recognizable thematic replica icon packaging and an article contained in the packaging, the method including the steps of: forming the combination by providing the article in the package, the package being recogniza[n]bly shaped like a golf ball, the package having totally separable pieces joinable to form a hollow interior of the package and being separabl[y]e to open the package for the removal of the article, the package being made of plastic, and the article being a member of the

group of rain gear consisting of a wiping cloth, a rain coat, a rain vest, a golf bag cover, a ditty bag, a poncho, a hat, and a seat cover.

25. (Currently amended) A method for making a combination of thematically-shaped packaging for an article contained therein, the method including the steps of:
constructing a package having a shape of a golf ball, the package having totally separable pieces joinable to form a hollow interior of the package and being separabl[y]e to open the package for the removal of the article, the package and the article made of plastic, locating rain gear, as the article, within the hollow interior of the replica, the rain gear comprised of a mouth openable by pulling lips of the article apart in opposite directions, and closeable by pulling proximate and distal sides of the mouth in opposite directions.

26. (Currently amended) A method of making a combination of thematically-shaped packaging and an article contained therein, the method including the steps of:
constructing the package as a replica of a symbol having a shape of a ball for a particular sport, the package having totally separable pieces joinable to form a hollow interior of the package and being separab[y]e to open the package for the removal of the article, the package and the article made of plastic, and

the article consisting of rain apparel having a mouth openable by pulling lips of the article apart in opposite directions, and closable by pulling proximate and distal sides of the mouth in opposite directions.

27. (Currently amended) The method of any one claims 5 [and 8-23], 8-15 and 17-23 wherein the step of locating is carried out with rain gear as the article.

28. (Currently amended) The method of any one of claims 5 [and 8-23], 8-15 and 17-23 wherein the step of constructing includes constructing the article by joining sheets of plastic.

29. (Currently amended) The method of any one claims 5 [and 8-23], 8-15 and 17-23 wherein the step of constructing includes constructing the article to include a mouth openable by pulling lips of the article apart in opposite directions, and closable by pulling proximate and distal sides of the mouth in opposite directions.

30. (Previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing the article includes forming a first joint and a second joint.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) A method for making a combination of a thematic package and an article contained in the package, the method including the steps of:

constructing the package as a replica of a recognizable icon, the package having a shape that is different than a shape of the article to be contained therein,

the shape of the package visually conveying information about a sports activity associated with the icon in which the article is used, and,

the package having a [hallow] hollow interior; and

locating the article within the [hallow] hollow interior of the package to form the combination of the article and the thematic package.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of constructing includes the step of imprinting a message on the package related to the use of the article.

34. (Currently amended) A method for using a combination of a thematic package and an article contained in the package, the method including the steps of:

constructing the package as a replica of a

recognizable icon, the package having a shape that is different than any shape to be contained in the combination,

the shape of the package visually conveying information about an activity associated with the icon in which the article is used, and,

the package having separable pieces joinable to form a [hallow] hollow interior of the package;

locating the article within the hollow interior of the package to form the combination of the article and the thematically-shaped package;

marketing the combination; and

separating the pieces to open the package to remove the article for the use.

35. (Previously amended) A method for using more than one combination of a thematic package and article respectively contained therein, the method including the steps of:

constructing the packages to replicate at least one recognizable icon, the packages each having a shape that is different than any shape to be respectively contained therein,

each said package shape visually conveying information about an activity associated with said at least one icon in which the respective article is used, and,

each said package having a hollow interior;

locating the respective articles within the respective hollow interiors of the respective packages to form the more than one combination of the articles and the thematic packages; and marketing the more than one combination.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein:

the step of constructing the packages to replicate the at least one recognizable icon is carried out with the at least one recognizable icon being a golf ball; and wherein:

the step of marketing the more than one combination is carried out including the step of packaging the more than one combination in a box having the appearance of a sleeve for golf balls.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of locating is carried out with the articles respectively including an article and an other of the article.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of locating is carried out with one of the articles including an article including a rain coat and an other of the articles not including a rain coat.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of locating is carried out with the articles respectively including [a] an article but not an other of the article.

40. (Previously presented) A method for making more than one combination of a thematic package and an articles respectively contained therein, the method including the steps of:

constructing the packages to replicate at least one recognizable icon, the packages each having a shape that is different than a shape to be respectively contained therein,

each said package shape visually conveying information about an activity associated with said at least one icon in which the respective articlesg are used, and,

each said package having a hollow interior;

locating the different kinds of articles within the respective hollow interiors of the respective packages, wherein the articles respectively include one of an article but not an other of the article, to form the more than one combination having different kinds of the articles within the thematic packages; and

marketing the more than one combination.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, where the step of locating the different kinds of articles within the respective hollow interior is carried out with rain gear as only one of the kinds of the articles.

42. (Previously presented) A method for using more than one combination of a thematic package and article respectively contained therein, the method including the steps of:

constructing the packages to respectively replicate different recognizable icons, the packages each having a shape that is different than a shape to be respectively contained therein,

each said package shape visually conveying information about an activity associated respectively with said icons in which the respective article is used, and,

each said package having a hollow interior;

locating the respective articles within the respective hollow interiors of the respective packages to form the more than one combination of the articles and the thematic packages; and

marketing the more than one combination.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of locating is carried out with the articles respectively including an article and an other of the article.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of locating is carried out with the articles respectively including a first article but not an other of the article.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of locating the article within the hollow includes engaging lips on respective portions of the package to encase the article, the portions forming halves of the hollow when joined during the locating step.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of locating the articles within the hollows includes engaging lips on respective portions of the packages to encase the articles, the portions forming respective halves of the hollow when joined during the locating step.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of locating the articles within the hollows includes engaging lips on respective portions of the packages to encase the articles, the portions forming respective halves of the hollow when joined during the locating step.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of locating the articles within the hollows

includes engaging lips on respective portions of the packages to encase the articles, the portions forming respective halves of the hollow when joined during the locating step.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes the step of imprinting a message on the package, the message being suggestive of the use of the article.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of constructing includes constructing the package as having separabl[y] e joinable pieces, the pieces being joinable to form the hollow interior of the package and being separably to open the package for the removal of the article.

51. (Previously presented) A method for making more than one combination of a thematic package and article respectively contained therein for combined marketing, the method including the steps of:

constructing the packages as respective replicas of at least one recognizable icon, one of the packages having a shape that is different than any shape to be contained therein,

each said package having a shape visually suggestive of an activity associated with said at least one icon in which

the respective article is used during the activity, after removal from the package, and

each said package having a hollow interior;

locating the respective articles within the respective hollow interiors of the respective packages to form the more than one combination of the articles and the thematic packages; and

marketing the more than one combination.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein:

the step of constructing the packages to replicate the at least one recognizable icon is carried out with each said at least one recognizable icon being a golf ball; and further including the step of packaging the more than one combination in a box having the appearance of a sleeve for golf balls to permit carrying out of said step of marketing the more than one combination.

53. (Currently amended) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of marketing the more than one combination is carried out with the respective packages resembling balls and with a box therefor[e].

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of locating is carried out with the articles respectively being different kinds of rain gear.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of locating is carried out with the articles respectively being different kinds of articles.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of locating is carried out with one of the kinds of articles including rain gear.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of constructing the packages includes constructing the packages to respectively resemble a variety of balls.

58. (Currently amended) The method of any one claims 5 [and 8-23], 8-15 and 17-23 wherein the step of locating is carried out with the article from a group consisting of sun screen, a band-aide, a golf tee, ball mark, insect repellent, and bee sting treatment.